

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace ¶ [0001] (p. 1, lines 6-13) with the following:

[0001] The present invention relates to a speed change gear for an automatic transmission. The speed change gear has an arrangement of a speed reduction planetary gear set for reducing a rotation from a power source (engine and the like) and a latter speed change mechanism for inputting the thus reduced rotation. The speed reduction planetary gear set includes a ring gear having an outer periphery which is provided with a direct clutch for transmitting ~~at a constant speed~~ the rotation from the power source (engine and the like) to the latter speed change mechanism.

Please replace ¶ [0009] (p. 3, lines 2-28) with the following:

[0009] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a speed change gear for an automatic transmission. The speed change gear ~~comprises; includes:~~ includes: 1) an input portion for inputting an input rotation from a power source; 2) an output portion disposed substantially coaxially with the input portion and outputting an output rotation of the speed change gear; and 3) a plurality of planetary gear sets including a compound planetary gear set, the plurality of the planetary gear sets providing a plurality of power conductive paths to an area defined between the input portion and the output portion. The plurality of the planetary gear sets ~~comprises; includes:~~ includes: a first clutch; a second clutch; a third clutch; a first brake; and a second brake. The clutches and the brakes are configured to be selectively ~~connected and disconnected engaged and disengaged~~ in such a manner that the plurality of the planetary gear sets change a rotation from the input portion at a corresponding gear change ratio by selecting one of the plurality of the power conductive paths, thereby outputting the thus changed rotation to the output portion. ~~The clutch and the brake make a combination of engagement and disengagement. The combination makes a selection from Combinations of engaged clutches and brakes and combinations of multiple engaged clutches define~~ at least six successive forward gears and one reverse gear. One of the plurality of the planetary gear sets is a speed reduction planetary gear set for continuously reducing the input rotation and outputting the thus reduced rotation. ~~The clutch comprises; two clutches including a In the first through the fifth forward gears, the first clutch and a seeond and/or the second clutch for connecting and disconnecting is/are engaged to transfer~~ the reduced rotation

from the speed reduction planetary gear set to the compound planetary gear set. The third clutch, -set, and a third clutch which is a direct clutch for outputting the input rotation ~~at a constant speed~~ to the compound planetary gear set, ~~the third clutch being~~ is disposed radially outward relative to a first ring gear of the speed reduction planetary gear set. The first ring gear has an outer periphery ~~which~~ that is provided with a clutch hub. The clutch hub constitutes the direct clutch and is an input member to the third clutch.

Please replace ¶ [0029]-[0030] (p. 6, line 30 – p. 7, line 7) with the following:

[0029] ~~Hereinabove, the~~ The center member CM is ~~so disposed to~~ disposed so as to pass through a space ~~which~~ that is defined on a circle formed with pitches arranged on the third pinion P3 and ~~which~~ that is defined between the adjacent third pinions P3. The center member CM is ~~so disposed~~ disposed so as to extend radially inward from between the third sun gear S3 and the fourth sun gear S4.

[0030] The input portion INPUT is constituted of the input shaft 1. ~~Connecting the~~ The connection of the input shaft 1 to the first ring gear R1 and ~~connecting the~~ connection of the input shaft 1 to an engine (not shown), which acts as power source via a torque converter (not shown) ~~allow~~ shown, allows the engine speed to be inputted from the input shaft 1 to the first ring gear R1.

Please replace ¶ [0034] (p. 7, lines 25-29) with the following:

[0029] The center member CM of the third planetary carrier PC3 is adapted to be connected to the input shaft 1 by the third clutch C3, thus allowing the third clutch C3 to act as a direct clutch outputting the input rotation to a compound planetary gear set (including the second planetary gear set G2 and the third planetary gear set G3) ~~at a constant speed (namely, no speed change)~~ G3).